

**CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS:** Robert Koenig, center, of Eau Claire, and Rankin Lyman, right, rural South Haven, receive certificates of recognition from Fred Houseman, awards chairman for the Michigan association of Soil Conservation districts. Awards were made at association's annual meeting in Grand Rapids for work in conservation by both

men. Koenig, director of the social conservation district in his area since 1959, is chairman of the association's shore erosion committee and a member of the national association's committee on shore erosion. Lyman has been chairman of the district in his area since 1963 and a director since 1952. (Prosch-Jensen photo)

## New Buffalo Protest Over Taxes Rekindled

**NEW BUFFALO** — A group of New Buffalo area taxpayers plan to renew the legal battle protesting increases in 1970 as-

essed property valuation and an anticipated 1971 increase. About 100 persons, members of the New Buffalo Township Tax Reform committee, have started action to file the new move in the state appeals court, according to James Keller, committee head and chairman of the Berrien County Democratic party.

Keller of New Buffalo, said in a press conference Saturday afternoon that two law firms will file the class action suit on behalf of property owners in the county who filed 1970 taxes under protest.

"This is a renewal of the protest over tax increases started last year by the township board but this year it's the citizens themselves filing the suit," Keller told reporters.

The New Buffalo township board lost its tax appeal last fall on the increased valuations when a ruling from Judge Julian Hughes said the Berrien Circuit Court did not have jurisdiction to review state tax commission decisions.

The township had protested the tax commission's refusal to grant a hearing to New Buffalo on its increased valuation.

Keller said the new suit is expected to be filed in Lansing in March.

Other Berrien county property owners who object to their tax increases are also invited to join in the suit, according to Keller.

He said owners could write to

him — at Box 84, New Buffalo and he would forward their names to the committee.

The tax reform committee was formed after a petition signed by some 2,000 persons protested the tax increases.

Keller said although the law firms are not from this area, the attorneys, accountants and citizens instigating the action are local property owners.

He would not reveal the names of the two law firms. He did say that the firms will not charge legal fees and the only costs to owners will be filing fees and other court related costs.

The Democratic party chairman said his party's executive committee has voted to support the citizen's action. He said a recommendation to support the suit will be presented to the full county committee at its March 18 meeting in Berrien Center.

The countywide \$705 million

valuation in 1970 upped the New Buffalo township's valuation \$4.5 million to \$18.7 million; about a 37 1/2 percent increase. Countywide, the \$705 million represented about an 18 percent increase in valuations.



ROBERT K. ALLEN

## Manager Is Selected By Welch

Robert K. Allen has been promoted to the position of plant manager of the Welch Foods, Inc., plant in Lawton, effective today, according to an announcement by John Shepard, Welch Director of Plant Operations.

Allen, who has been manager of the Welch plants at Westfield and Brocton, N. Y. since 1969, succeeded Robert A. Bayles, who has resigned.

Allen was production superintendent in Lawton for three years before assuming responsibilities in Westfield and Brocton, N. Y.

He joined Welch Foods in 1948 and served in various capacities at the North East, Pennsylvania, plant before being named general foreman of production and processing in 1958. In 1964, he was promoted to production superintendent at the Westfield, N.Y. plant.

Allen is a native of Pennsylvania and has attended Lake Michigan college, Western Michigan university and Gannon college in Erie, Pa. He is married and has two children.

## Board Will Meet Tuesday

**NEW TROY** — The Weesaw township board will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. instead of the regularly scheduled meeting date on Wednesday.

Supervisor Allen Boyd announced the change and also said the board of review will meet at the township hall Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Monday, March 8, from noon to 6 p.m.

## Racing Rulebook Faces Rewrite In Legislature

By LARRY KURTZ  
Associated Press Writer  
LANSING (AP) — A wide-ranging racing regulation submitted to the Senate earlier this year will undergo a rewrite job before coming up for consideration.

As now written, the 46-page bill makes a number of changes. It would set up a three-member Racing Commission to replace the present one-man office; allow establishment of quarter-horse and dog racing tracks, and require strict licensing of race-track personnel.

Sen. Harry Demaso, R-Battle Creek, chairman of the Committee on Taxation and Veterans Affairs, said a substitute bill will be drawn up after interested parties have voiced their views. The deadline had been planned for last Friday, but Demaso says now it probably will be extended to about March 11.

**LONG CONTROVERSIAL**  
Dog racing has been a catchy controversy for years. It never has won legislative approval, however.

The sport, permitted in only a handful of states, didn't get much mention during the 1970 session—an election year. However, a Senate study committee prepared a lengthy report saying Michigan could fatten its Treasury by \$20 million-\$25 million a year if it permitted greyhound tracks. The committee hastened to add this could be done without threatening the Michigan horse racing industry. Last year, the state's racetrack rakeoffs totaled \$21.2 million, up more than \$1 million from the 1969 take.

The proposed racing bill would put both horse and dog racing under control of a single commission, but deal with them in separate sections of the law.

Demaso emphasizes dog racing permitted under the bill "would not be automatic."

A proposed track would have to have the approval of the governing board of the county or city in which it would be located. Even then, it could be subjected to an area-wide vote through a petition campaign.

Up to eight greyhound tracks would be authorized, including at least one in the Upper Peninsula and one in the Detroit area. Demaso said it is important to write strong protections into the bill. One major provision would be to require occupational licenses of personnel all the way down to stable workers. Fingerprints and photographs would be part of it.

State Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley says he likes the idea of quarterhorse racing — there are 14,000 registered quarterhorses in Michigan. Shirley also favors occupational licenses, saying the bill should make sure all management officials are included.

The commissioner also says he is not opposed to dog racing, as long as it does not damage the horse racing industry.

However, he says he does not like the idea of a three-man commission.

"I have yet to hear one good reason why we have to change," he said. Shirley contends that as a single commissioner, he is much more flexible than a three-man board. He says he can make on-the-spot decisions and must accept the responsibility for them.

He claims some other states with multi-member commissions envy Michigan's setup.

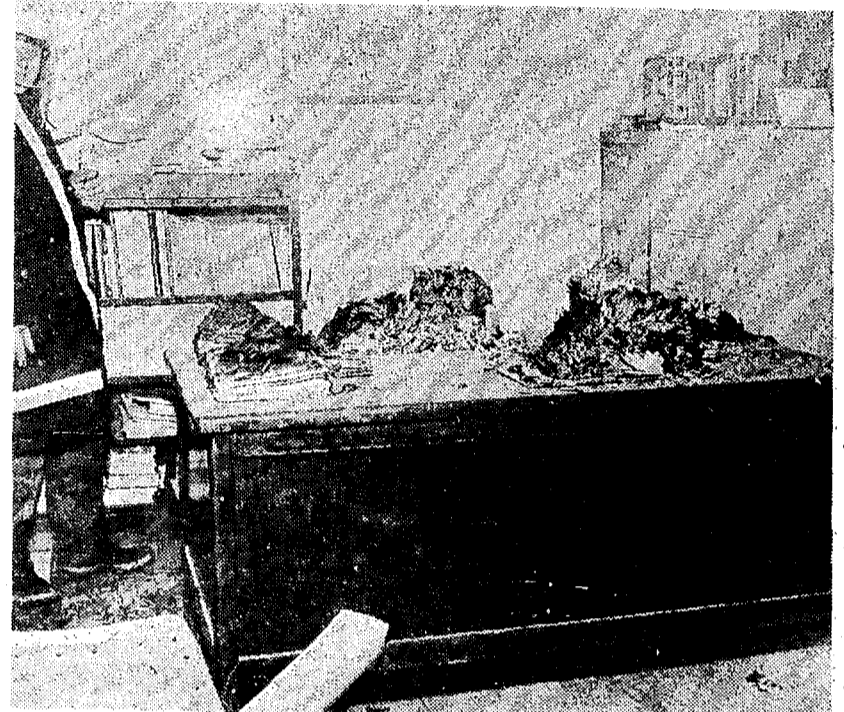
However, Shirley adds that if dog racing comes to Michigan it should be regulated by a separate commissioner.

Meanwhile, Demaso says he expects the committee will come

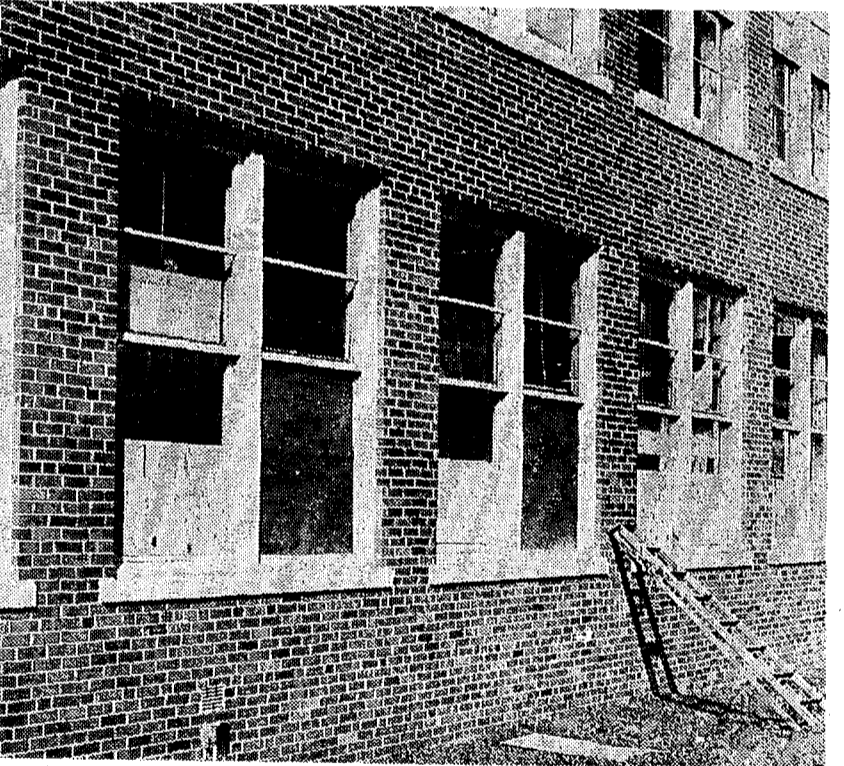
up with a "whole new substitute bill" after all the views are in. He says the plan is to work with House members before the sub-

stitute is drawn up, so that both chambers can work with a single bill instead of each starting from scratch.

"We're in no great hurry on this," he said. "We want to get this one in the best shape we can."



**CALLED ARSON:** Fires in two administrative offices at Buchanan high school Saturday night have been pronounced arson, and are under investigation by Buchanan city police and the state fire marshal's office at Paw Paw. Firemen Fred Altergott checks the ashes of papers on Assistant Principal Ellis May's desk for any lingering sparks. No damage estimate was available this morning.



**GLASS SMASHING SPREE:** In addition to setting fires in two administrative offices, vandals at Buchanan high school Saturday night smashed 32 windows in first floor classrooms, then opened the valves at emergency fire hose stations on both floors. A full day of work Sunday cleared away most of the mess, officials report, and classes are being held as usual today.



**PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:** Vandal arsonists attempted to fire Principal Don Trull's office by igniting papers on his desk and floor. But an early alarm, received by phone at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, kept damage to a minimum. Both offices where the arson was attempted are on the second floor of the high school. (Berrien County Record photos)

## DOUGLAS

## Mark Atwood Receives Unsought Nomination

**DOUGLAS** — Mark Atwood has been named the winner of a drawing to determine the Republican nominee for Douglas village assessor.

He and Douglas Bryan, incumbent Republican assessor who did not seek re-election, both received 28 write-in ballots in the Feb. 15 village primary.

No candidate has filed for the assessor's office but incumbent Bryan and Atwood received the write-in votes.

A drawing was held in the Allegan county clerk's office and Atwood drew the slip marked "nominated" for office.

He resides on Lake Shore road, Douglas. He is unopposed for the office in the March 8 village election.

## BERRIEN SPRINGS

## Deadline March 12 For Fluoride Program

**BERRIEN SPRINGS** — Parents who wish to have children enrolled in this summer's topical fluoride dental program have until March 12 to register.

Mrs. George Shafer, chairman of the Jayshoes, Civil League and PTA's fluoride committee, said parents can contact her or Mrs. William Moore for registration cards if they have not received one already.

Preschool children age three and four, kindergarteners who have not received the treatments before, and second, fifth and eighth graders are eligible for treatments.

A fee of \$3 to cover cost of operating the clinic will be charged.

The four treatments will be given at a clinic to be held in the Berrien Springs Sylvester elementary school. The first treatment consists of cleaning the child's teeth and applying the fluoride solution. The solution is applied on the three subsequent visits.

The state-wide program is supervised by the dental division of the Michigan Dept. of Public Health which assists local groups in setting up the program.

## SCHOOLS

## Niles Will Decide Tax On Tuesday

**NILES** — School district voters here decide Tuesday whether to renew a 19.5 mill tax levy on property value to sustain the operation of this 6,600-student district.

The two-year renewal is being sought by the district's school board.

Polls are to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the estimated 10,000 voters eligible to cast ballots, school officials said. Polling places are located in the high school, the Central grade school, the Southside grade school, the Westside school, Oak Manor school, Electric Light school and Howard grade school.

According to school figures, the levy produces about \$1.9 million of the district's \$5.7 million annual budget.

The 19.5 mills is part of the district's 31.190 mill rate assessed against taxable property within the district. Each mill equals \$1 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation.